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Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SES-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12
EB-08 ICA-11 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 COME-00 HA-05
L-03 OMB-01 /107 W
----------119178 071257Z /46
R 070848Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3898
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1141

NEA/ARP PASS TO AMBASSADOR KILLGORE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, QA
SUBJECT: NAPCO INDUSTRIES ARMS EXPORT LICENSES

REF: 77 DOHA 1216 (AND PREVIOUS)

1. SUMMARY: MR. GEORGE INHOFER OF NAPCO INDUSTRIES, INC., 1600 S. SECOND STREET, HOPKINS, MINN., TOLD COMMERCIAL OFFICER AUGUST 6 THAT GOQ HAS ASKED HIS FIRM TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPLYING SOPHISTICATED U.S. WEAPONRY TO GOQ. INCLUDED IN GOQ SHOPPING LIST ARE JET AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, IAR DEFENSE RADAR, NAVAL GUNS AND FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. INHOFER, WHOSE FIRM IS SUPPLYING 50 CAL. MACHINE GUNS TO GOQ ARMED FORCES (REF), TOLD COMMOFF THAT DEPUTY CIC BRIGADIER MOHAMAD
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AL-ATTIYAH HAS ASKED NAPCO TO CHECK POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO GOQ. MENTIONED WERE JET FIGHTERS (F-5 OR EQUIVALENT), AIR DEFENSE MISSILES (TYPE UNSPECIFIED), AIR DEFENSE RADAR, THIRTY-MILLIMETER CANNON FOR DECK MOUNTING ON PATROL BOATS (AS REPLACEMENT FOR INSTALLED CANNON OF SAME CALIBER) AND FIRE CONTROL SETS FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT USE OF THESE CANNON.

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3. INHOFER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. POLICY ON ARMS TO LOWER GULF (HAVING BEEN BRIEFED ON IT IN U.S. IN PREPARATION FOR EARLIER DEALS) AND THAT DEPUTY CIC WAS WELL AWARE OF LIMITATIONS ON WHAT USG WOULD LICENSE FOR EXPORT TO QATAR. ACCORDING TO INHOFER, BRIGADIER AL-ATTIYAH TOLD INHOFER THAT IF LICENSING LOOKED LIKE IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM INHOFER SHOULD NOT PURSUE IT. INHOFER SURMISED THAT PURPOSE OF AL-ATTIYAH REQUEST WAS TO GIVE U.S. SUPPLIERS FIRST SHOT AT SALES. ACCORDING TO INHOFER, ALL INQUIRIES WILL BE MADE ON U.S. END BY NAPCO AND HIS VISIT TO EMBASSY WAS MERELY TO INFORM EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF PLAY AND WHAT GOQ WAS SEEKING ON THE WORLD ARMS MARKET.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH INHOFER THAT GOQ AND BRIGADIER AL-ATTIYAH ARE TRYING TO GIVE U.S. SUPPLIERS FIRST CHANCE TO SELL WEAPONS HERE. GOQ HAS BEEN TRYING TO MOVE AWAY FROM SINGLE SOURCE (U.K.) OVER LAST FEW YEARS AND HAS MADE SOME PURCHASES FROM OTHER SOURCES, MOSTLY FRENCH. AL-ATTIYAH IS FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED ON THESE MATTERS AND MAY WELL HAVE OPENED HIS SHOPPING LIST TO INHOFER KNOWING THAT U.S. LICENSES WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING BUT ALSO KNOWING THAT INHOFER WOULD INFORM EMBASSY OF WHAT WAS ON LIST.
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